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HE DAY WHEN GLENDA WEST WAS TO MEET THE MAN WHO WOULD CHANGE THE WHOLE PATTERN OF HER LIFE WAS · NOT FAR AWAY ... · DOCTOR HILL WAS A NOTED PLASTIC SURGEON. BUT HIS SPARE TIME WAS SPENT READING, NOT MEDICAL BOOKS, BUT THE REVIEWS ON GLENDA'S LATEST SHOWS ...



HELLO. YES, THIS IS DOCTOR HILL.
WHAT'S THIS? JOIN A COMMITTEE TO
SELECT THE MOST BEAUTIFUL
BALLERINA? I'D BE HONORED, SIR!
ONLY BECAUSE THE PROCEEDS OF
YOUR SOCIETY GO TO CHARITY,
NATURALLY... FINE... I'LL DO
IT GLADLY!







PERHAPS I AM A PERFECTIONIST,
BUT I SEE HER FACE AS A
MULTITUDE OF FLAWS! I GIVE
MY VOTE TO MARGO HOWE,
AND THAT'S FINAL!
PERHAPS
YOU'RE RIGHT,
DOCTOR!
MARGO IS
LOYELY...

I HAVE THE PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE THE BEAUTY QUEEN... MISS MARSO HOWE! YOU ALMOST WON, MISS WEST... BUT NOT QUITE... HOWEVER, CONGRATULATIONS TO MISS HOWE!

ALMOST... ME?
GRACIOUS!



DOCTOR HAD APPLIED A WILD GAMBLE ON HIS THE NIGHT THE DECISION BALLERINA QUEEN WAS CHOSEN ... BUT HE WON. WITH TREMBLING HEART HE LISTENED TO HIS PLOT BEING FULFILLED.





























GLENDA! WHAT HAVE I DONE?
I'VE RUINED EVERYTHING! I
MUST THINK... NO! NO TIME
FOR THAT... I MUST OPERATE...
IMMEDIATELY!











PRIGHTENEO AND WEAKENED SUBMISSION, GLENDA WEST NO LONGER FOUGHT AGAINST THE FATE THAT AWAITED HER SOON SHE WAS IN HER ROOM LISTENING IN AGAIN PANIC TO THE PROFESSIONAL YOICES OVER HER ...





IT'S JUST THE SAME! I HAVEN'T CHANGED! 8-BUT THE OPERATION? YOU FIXED ME, DOCTOR GREY! THAT'S WHY YOU WORKED ON MY FACE SO OFTEN! AND ALL THE WHILE YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE JUST FIXING THE DRESSINGS!



THE DRAMA CAME TO A CLOSE... ONLY ONE REMAINED ON THE STAGE... A SOBBING, SHUDDERING CHARACTER WHO PLAYED HIS PART LIKE FIEND AND FOOT... WHO PLACED CESIRE ABOVE REASON AND WICKEDNESS ABOVE MERCH, BUT WHOSE PLOT WAS SHATTERED TO PIECES LIKE THE FRAGMENTS OF THE BROKEN MIRROR...

LET'S GO, DARLINS!

WE'RE BOTY COME





















CLICKED LIGHT SWITCH AND STOOD FACING THE SMOKING GUN... HE HEARO THE THREATENING WORDS, BUT. SNARLING VOICES, ANOTHER SOUND REMAINED CRYSTAL CLEAR IN HIS BRAIN. THAT SNAP OF THE SECRET OOOR ...



PON'T SHOOT ME, GENTLEMEN!

I - I CAN'T OPEN THE CHEST.

I SOLD IT TO MRS PETERS! THE

KEY IS IN HER POSSESSION.. I

WAS TO RETRIEVE MY JEWEL

WHEN I DELIVERED THE CHEST TO

HER!





CONAS WAS GAMBLING ... HE KNEW A BODY WAS I





















GRIM WEDDING DAY

By John Martin

GRANT STEEDHOLM shivered as he stood with Parks in the big old barn down at the end of Summer's Lane, Old and dry, the constable watched him and chuckled thinly.

"Yes, there's more than men to be afraid of, Mr. Steedholm." He glanced down at the silent remains of Steedholm's old house

keeper, Jinny Franks,

- jg .

More than mon to be afraid of, Steedholm thought to himself. What could that mean? He knew what it had to mean. The superstitious country folk were ready to attribute Jinny's mysterious death to goblins or evil although up to now it hadn't mattered to him. But even he had wondered ...

He glanced again at Jinny, and her dark evil face was composed. Only he knew what evil really lay behind the mask, It had been a perfect mask for Jinny. The country folk, simple and yet deeply wise, were not fools enough to assume a woman was bad just because she looked that way. And so, Steedholm reflected, they had shown themselves even greater fools by ignoring nature's plainest warning signals. Yes, Jinny was evil, almost as evil as he was himself. Steedholm, shaken though he was, laughed inwardly. He, himself, looked like a gentle country squire. And that was another mask. Behind it lay the perfectly sincere desire to be one and also the will to use evil to stay

"What I can't understand is why there isn't a mark on her," he said to Parks.

"Why, that's the best proof that the dark powers get her, Mr. Steedholm, Oh, you folks from the city can laugh at us and say we're just gullible, but there's a power none of you know of what goes on in the air right around you-and particularly at night, Evil, Mr. Steedholm, evil. Jinny wasn't much, but they got her. They'd get us all if we didn't walch out."

"You mean a corener's jury will literally

arcept a story like that?" he asked, amazed. Parks smiled slowly, "Oh, no. They'll put I down to the usual person or persons up-Aid it But look, Mr. Steedholm, what else would they think? She's dead, Without a mark on her. We even know what killed her. Doe Spetter save it was simple heart failure. But we also know that terror falled her. Why else was she found atop the haystack but-

STEEDHOLM considered, That, he knew. was the really inexplicable part of the

whole business. No human agency, not even Jinny herself, could have lifted her body to the top of a rather high, but otherwise very ordinary, haystack, and left her dead. And there wasn't a sign of her having climbed there herself. Not a straw disturbed. For yards around the ground was perfectly clean,

Why, why, he asked himself, and could find no answer. His own estate—the one he'd inherited from his dead wife-was hundreds of feet away. How came Jinny to be found dead in such a manner outside the house she had taken care of for him?

He moved aside as the men from the village funeral parlor came in and took Jinny away. He regretted seeing her go, Last night had been the last time he'd seen her. It had been her habit to walk down toward the grave where his wife lay buried and glance down at it and chuckle deeply. And, presumably, she had done the same last night. Only she had never come back. Steedholm tried to imagine her strolling past the mound of earth with Dorothy's headstone at one end of it and overhead the great clms, forever a roof over dead memories. Yes, he regretted losing Jinny. It had been Jinny, after all, who had helped him lose Dorothy.

In deep thought, he absently thanked old Parks for his courtesy, and strolled out of old man Summer's barn and down toward his own land. The inquest would not trouble him. He could go on to marry Steena Talling now and forget the whole thing. What was a-mystery like that to him, even if it had lost him a companion in what amounted to

murder?

Amounted to murder, Abruptly, he paused and considered. Dorothy had died without a mark on her, either, but he knew what had killed her. His own and Jinny's unkindness, their calculated mental pressure that had finally exhausted her will to live. An invalid like Dorothy had little to begin with. And he had married her, hoping she would die soon, later, he had realized that if he wanted to enjoy her fortune without hindrance, her death, in a measure, had to be hastened. And then had begun Dorothy's virtual captivity. Bereft of authority. badgered by her own husband and her own housekeeper, yet forced to hide what went wite's crippled spirit had given up quickly And they had buried her as the wished to be furried, under the stand of chas, decide her fither and her mother, to sleep forever as the last of a great old family,

THE SKY durkened a little as a wrack of clouds passed before the late evening sm. He turned in his own lane and came to a stop before Dorothy's grave. Yes, it was murder, he supposed, though no man on God's green carth could ever prove it. A grim, hard smile appeared on his face as he realized that with sotisfaction, and then the fact of Jinny's death smote him with sudden force. What if the villagers were right, he thought. What if Dorothy herself had risen up out of her own grave to visit revenge on Jinny?

He pansed in his stride. He was very close to the grave now. A chill breeze ran under the elms and, all of a sudden, his tourage deserted him. He felt like a small hoy walking past a cemetery at night, certain that close behind him horror trod, br, at the very least, by in wait for him behind the nearest gravestone.

And, like a small boy, like any grown man, confronted with terror he did not understand and with murder on his conscience. Steedholm began to whistle. He hought it would keep up his courage.

He stopped when he came in sight of the grave. The cold sweat that had begun to roll down his forchead dried up. Grant Steedholm smiled in relief. He needed nothing to keep up his courage now, for the grave was undisturbed. Over the gentle, slow-rising mound, the green grass grew as it always had, and there were no tracks in the surrounding grounds.

Dorothy Steedholm, her husband knew now, lay at rest. He had nothing to fear from her departed, perturbed spirit. Whoever of whatever had killed poor Jinny, was of no concern to him. And mow that he thought of it, Jinny had probably died at the hand of some unknown, bumpkin lover who would, presently, he discovered red-hamled killing some other girl. In fact, he was even happy Jinny had gone. Now there was no one in the world who know what had happened to Dorothy, heside himself.

Now, he reflected, he could marry Steens Talling in perfect safety. Dorothy had left him money. And marrying into the Talling family would bring prestige. Squire Steedholm, he murnured to himself, master of ten thousand acres, husband of the village's most heautiful and desirable woman. The wedding had been set for that evening at eight, and now, with Jinny's inexplicable death out of his mind, he could go to it with an easy heart.

LEAVING Darothy's grave, he returned to the old mansion that was now his, reported to the servants what had happened proclaimed a decent period of mourning foling and, chuckling secretly, went apstairs

to dress. From his window he could see the roof of the big Talling house, several thousand feet off. Ah. he thought, all the land between would tonight become his.

At seven, he finished his last glass of port, called for his coat and top-hat. In an exuberant mood, he decided to walk to the Talling house, past Dorothy's grave, down past the barn on Summer's Lane where they had put poor Jinny's body for a while and then onto the grassy lane lined with conflowers. They would be invisible now, he knew, for it was dark, but the smells of the growing things would be fragrant in his nostrils.

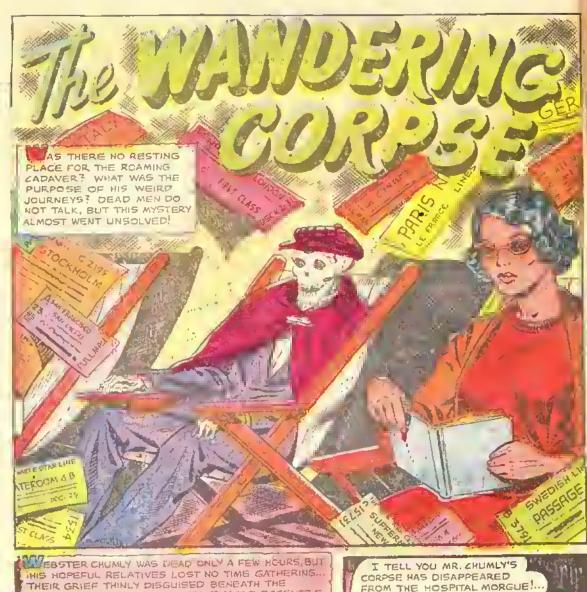
He left the house. Ontside, the merest thread of light left by the setting sun ran like a line of blood along the horizon. Below him was the path under the elms, past the grave. Pour Dorothy, he thought, and smiled secretly. She would always be a fine memory now, a part of the musk that hid him from the world. She had been dead a year.

As he approached the grave, he lifted an arm in a find, ironical solute of farewell. Ahead of him the mound loomed mournful and dim, but he whispered: "Good-bye, my dear," and plunged ahead, whistling.

He stopped, suddenly, with a terrible jerk and screamed, as from above, a long ropey arm descended, lashing, seizing him in an iron, inexorable grip. Stark terror of the unknown ripped through him and his arms flailed out, coming to grips with what held him. What was it, he asked himself desperately—human being, wild beast or...

Then Grant Steedholm's blood froze as his fingers closed on the tangled mass that was crushing the life from him. Now he knew what had killed Jinny and what was killing him. Only one thing could strangle a woman and hurl her, senseless, aloft to fall ironically dead on a haystack. Only one thing could be remurselessly, revengefully killing him now, it was the elm that had stood beside the grave-and now its stiff muscles flexed in an ecstasy of hate and triumph. Its roots, he guessed, breaking into the coffin, had taken for their food all the hatred and desire for revenge that had gone. into the grave with Dorothy Steedbolm, And now that undying hatred, in full, blind cry. was crushing out its last drop of venegeance.

Above the headstone. Grant Steedholm rose suddenly into the air, a mass of twigs, like a giant's hand, strangling air from his body. He could not see beneath him as he was cataputted with frightful speed lowers the night sky, but he knew that he would left the ground with hone constant force. And, in his last, dim thoughts, he knew that when he hit he would he as dead as they alie.













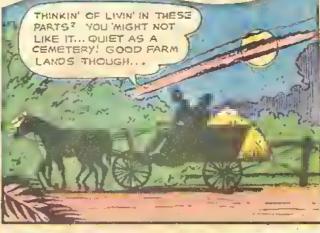
















THE SHERIFF NEVER DIO GET TO SEE THE OEAD MAN, FOR AGAIN HE MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED. BUT WHEN A STEAMER BOUND FOR CUBA WAS ONLY ONE HOUR OUT OF PORT, A FAMILIAR SIGURE WAS PROPPEO UP ON ONE OF THE DECK CHAIRS ...



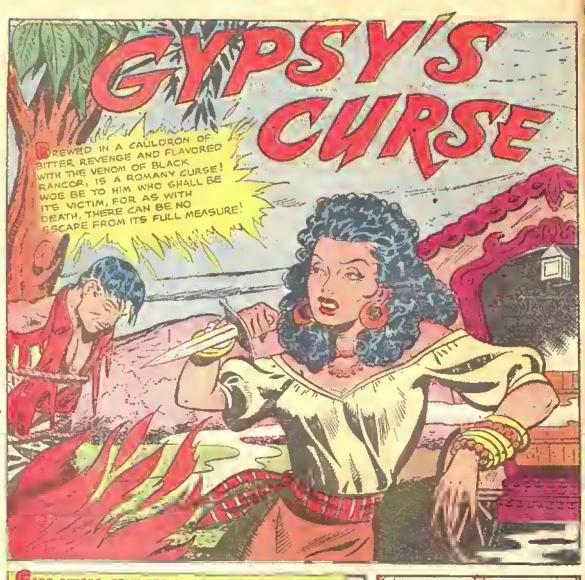
















MY FATHER ALREADY STARTS THE ARRANGE-MENTO FOR OUR ASSENAGE, VET YOU MAYOUT STOKEN OF IT TO ME...







LET'S GET BACK



DNSTINCT WARNED GREG PETERS HE WAS CEALING PROBLEM THAT COULD PROVE TROUBLEGOME. WITHOUT FURTHER ADDI HE MADE A REASONABLE SUGGESTION. 70 JOE. WILSON: FRIEND AND DIRECTOR OF HIS LATEST FILM ..



HEARTLESS

























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PHOPE WAS ENTERTAINING GUESTS BUT SHE INVITED HER VISITORS INTO A MORE PRIVATE ROOM. HER EYES WERE MOCKING IN SPITE OF HER FEIGNED SURPRISE AT THE NEWSPAPER REPORT.



REG DION'T EVEN LOOK AT THE WEAPON HE CLUTCHED FOR... RAGE SESTHED WITHIN HIM BLOTTING OUT ALL JUDGMENT...











WEEKS - 198 MADE"SAD SLIM JIM"HEP





THE WATER HICE COME TO SERVE WHEN P. SCHOOL BANK THE SECULD MAKE THE WESTER OF THE WAY STRENGTH OF THE WAY I IM WHAT TOO ME MONTH TO THE ME WE WERE THIS AD IS MEANT FOR A CHAP LIKE YOU! GOOTS FOR YOU!





JIM, YOUR BOOMY OH SUPERIOR PRINGTH, A PROVE EVERY WORD DYNAMIC ENERGY AND GREATER HEALTH IS JOS BOMOMO'S SUPER SPEED COUSSE BHOWED WE HOW!

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